



- CHENNAI • MADURAI • VILVAPURAM
- BENGALURU • KOCH • HYDERABAD
- VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE
- KOCHI • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
- BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA
- MANGALURU • THIRUPATI • TIRUCHY
- TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI
- DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR
- VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM
- TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM
- THIRUVARUR • KALABURGI

## Israel puts Gaza under 'complete siege'

AGENCIES

A day after officially declaring war on the Islamist militant group Hamas, Israel on Monday ordered a "complete siege" of Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip by cutting off food, fuel, electricity, and water supplies to the densely populated area.

Gaza depends on Israel for much of its basic supplies. The 43-km long, 10-km wide narrow strip wedged between Israel and Egypt on the Mediterranean Sea is home to 2.3 million people, half of them below the age of 20.

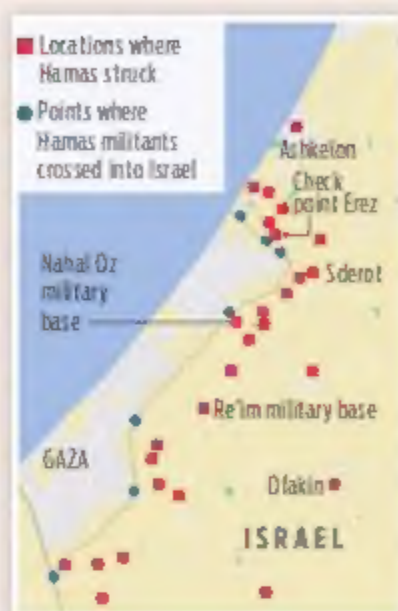
"I have given an order — Gaza will be under complete siege," Israel's defence minister Yoav Gallant said, adding: "There will be no electricity, food or fuel. We are fighting barbaric terrorists and will respond accordingly."

As the fight entered the third day, the toll from both sides soared to over 1,200 with

more than 700 people reported killed in Israel and 500 in Gaza. Israel's body count includes 260 people who were attending a music festival when they were massacred by militants.

Several foreigners were also killed in the Hamas attack on Israel. Nepal's foreign ministry said on Monday that 10 Nepali students were killed and four others injured. The US state department said nine Americans were confirmed dead and some are missing. France said two of its citizens were killed. BBC reported that more than 10 British nationals are feared dead or missing in Israel. Thailand, Mexico, and Ukraine lost two citizens each. Many foreigners, including US citizens, are reportedly among those held hostage by Hamas militants.

An Indian citizen, Sheeja Anand of Kerala's Kannur, was injured in a rocket attack in an airstrike in Ashkelon



### HOW MILITANTS ENTERED ISRAEL

Hamas militants slipped into Israel by cutting the barbed-wire topped fencing at multiple locations. They chose less-guarded areas and cut the wires and entered Israel on bikes and other means

but is out of danger.

News agency Reuters reported that Qatari mediators are in touch with Hamas officials for the release of Israeli women and children seized by the militant group and held in Gaza in exchange for the release of 36 Palestinian women and children from Israel's prisons. However, Israeli officials have denied the report.

The war is set to intensify in coming days with Israel pressing ahead with its offensive. In an unprecedented move, as many as 3 lakh Israeli army reservists have been called up to fight Hamas. According to the UN, 1.23 lakh people have fled their homes in Gaza ahead of imminent bombardment.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain condemned the abduction of civilians by Hamas during its assault on Israel. The two Arab nations called for diplomatic means to end the conflict. **P12**



Palestinians search for survivors after an Israeli airstrike on buildings in the refugee camp of Jabalia in the Gaza Strip. Israel launched several strikes on Monday | **APF**

### RETRIBUTION HAS JUST BEGUN: BIBI

Warning of more strikes on Gaza in, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israel's retaliation for the Hamas attack has "only just begun"

### ISRAEL STRIKES 2,400 TARGETS ON MONDAY

Israeli forces struck 2,400 Hamas targets on Monday, over and above 1,200 air strikes between Saturday and Monday morning

## 'Not returning now, doing my bit for Israelis'

PRAKASH SAMAGA @Udupi

"I do not want to leave Israel now. I want to help the Israelis in this hour of crisis," said Prameela Prabhu, 41, from Herga in Udupi district, who has been working as a nurse in Tel Aviv-Yafo for the past six years.

Prameela is among the many Indians stranded there after Hamas launched an attack on

Israel. "Around 8.30 pm on October 7, I had to rush to the bunker in the basement of my apartment complex as sirens started blaring after Hamas attacked Israel. Since then, I have moved to the bunker three times. I never witnessed violence of this scale and enormity. I live in Tel Aviv-Yafo, which has not been affected much unlike other cities and towns in Israel.

But there were bombings on Saturday, just about 1 km away from my place. Every house, commercial and government establishments here have bunkers and one can find them in public places as well," she told **TNIE** over the phone.

Soon after the siren, there will be bombings in about 20 seconds and we have to get into the bunkers. People are forced to remain indoors now, she said. **CONTINUED ON: P4**

## Nov 7-30 semifinal in 5 states to set tone for 2024's LS dash

Poll panel announces schedule; single phase in 4 states, 2 phases in Ch'garh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@New Delhi

WITH the poll panel announcing the election dates on Monday (see graphic), battle lines have been drawn for the high-stakes contest in five states, which is being seen as the semifinal bout before the 2024 general elections. Its results will be an indicator to the big battle ahead for the ruling BJP and the Opposition's INDIA alliance.

While the Congress governments in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are looking to retain power, the Congress is locked in a bitter fight with the BJP in Madhya Pradesh. Telangana has a three-way contest as the Congress and the BJP are pitted against the K Chandrashekar Rao-led Bharat Rashtra Samithi government. In Mizoram, NDA ally Mizo National Front is in power.

Despite its track record of replacing incumbents, Rajasthan hasn't yet indicated which way it will swing. While the BJP is banking on anti-incumbency, the grand old party is pinning its hopes on the welfare schemes of CM Ashok Gehlot.

While the BJP has sidelined its two-time CM Vasundhara Raje, it is crippled with several CM aspirants such as Union ministers Gajendra Shekhawat and Arjun Meghwal. In contrast, the Congress campaign is focused on Gehlot. However, all eyes are on how the feud between Gehlot and his former

deputy Sachin Pilot will now play out, especially in East Rajasthan where Gujjar votes are crucial. The two-phase polling in Chhattisgarh will see a direct fight between ruling Congress and BJP in the largely bipolar politics of the state. Though surveys have indicated CM Bhupesh Baghel will retain power, BJP is hopeful that the alleged scams and corruption cases against the government would work in its favour.

The contest between the ruling BJP and the Congress in MP may be the most keenly watched. The BJP is eyeing to buck anti-incumbency, particularly by banking on women voters, who constitute 48.5%, through populist schemes and freebies. The party has also replaced non-performer MLAs. Led by party

chief and its CM face Kamal Nath, the Congress on the other hand seems confident of wresting power by a bigger margin than 2018 polls. The party is relying on its 11 poll guarantees (Old Pension Scheme for government employees, freebies like ₹1,500 monthly to women, resuming farm loan waiver, and conducting caste census). It is hopeful that the promise of a caste census will dent the BJP's most trusted OBC vote.

In Mizoram, the stakes for ruling MNF are high. Despite anti-incumbency, MNF stands a good chance of retaining power, thanks to its deft playing of the Kuki-Zo unity card. **P10**



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar (C) announcing the poll timetable | **PAN VEEN NIGI**

### POLL SCHEDULE

1. **MIZORAM**  
Single phase (All 40 seats) • Polling: Nov 7

2. **CHHATTISGARH**  
First phase (20 seats) • Polling: Nov 7  
Second phase (70 seats) • Polling: Nov 17

3. **MADHYA PRADESH**  
Single phase (All 230 seats) • Polling: Nov 17

4. **RAJASTHAN**  
Single phase (All 200 seats) • Polling: Nov 23

5. **TELANGANA**  
Single phase (All 119 seats) • Polling: Nov 30

**DATE OF COUNTING: DECEMBER 3**

Enrolment of electors who attained the age 18 yrs between Jan 1 and Oct 1 this year

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Chhattisgarh   | 2,63,820  |
| Madhya Pradesh | 11,29,513 |
| Mizoram        | 50,611    |
| Rajasthan      | 22,94,514 |
| Telangana      | 5,32,990  |

YOUTH POWER

## DKS: Resurvey of properties to raise more tax

ENS @ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday said that the State Government has no plans to increase property tax in Bengaluru now. But steps will be taken to streamline tax collection to help increase revenue by threefold.

"Under the Self-Assessment Scheme (SAS) for property tax collection, many owners fudge built-up areas to reduce tax. Hence, a re-survey of properties will be done. Once this is done, property tax collection (which is currently around Rs 3,000 crore) will increase by threefold. A separate team will be set up for this purpose," he said.

Speaking at the Brand Bengaluru Conclave here, Shivakumar said the BBMP will introduce "Nanna Swasthu" (my property) scheme soon. **P2**

### PEACE PITCH

## Most of the 70 collegium picks to be notified soon

JAISON WILSON @ New Delhi

WEEKS after the Supreme Court's whip-lash against the government's failure to clear 70 collegium recommendations for promotion/transfer in the higher judiciary, the Centre on Monday told the bench that almost all of them will be notified shortly, including the appointment of the Manipur High Court Chief Justice.

"We are processing them and will try to finish it before the October vacation. Will have to speak with the consultee judges," the Centre informed the bench. A bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia was hearing two pleas, including one moved by the Advocates Association of Bengaluru seeking contempt action against the law ministry for not following the timeline set by the court.

"Appointment of chief justice to the

high court of a sensitive state has finally received their attention and they are doing it now," the bench said.

Calling it a positive development, the bench said almost 70 names for appointment and transfers recommended by various high court collegiums, which were pending with the ministry since November 2022 have finally landed before the SC's collegium. It will start processing them immediately.

On July 5, the SC collegium had recommended the appointment of Delhi High Court judge Siddharth Mridul as the chief justice of the Manipur High Court, amid the ethnic turmoil in the state.

On the issue of transfer of 26 high court judges, the bench noted that "the files in 14 cases have been cleared and notifications will be issued shortly."

As for the remaining 12, they are stated to be under process, the bench said.



### EXPRESS DEAD

#### Heavy rain hits life in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Heavy rain lashed the city on Monday evening, uprooting trees and flooding low-lying areas. Traffic in the city, especially ORR, was affected due to water logging. The city received 4cm rain, while HAL recorded 5cm till 8.30pm. IMD has issued a yellow alert for Tuesday | **P2**

#### Ten killed in cracker unit blast in TN

Ariyalur: Ten people, including three women, died and 13 others were injured in a major explosion at a private firecracker unit at Viragalur village in Ariyalur district, Tamil Nadu, on Monday. The explosions continued for nearly three hours, police said. Three of the injured are critical | **P5**

#### CLAUDIA GOLDIN WINS ECONOMICS NOBEL

SHE WAS CHOSEN "FOR HAVING ADVANCED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WOMEN'S LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES", ACCORDING TO THE NOBEL ACADEMY | **P13**



### ZOO YRS

Claudia collected over 200 years of data from the US, allowing her to show gender differences in earnings and employment rates have changed over time

Her research reveals the causes of change, as well as the main sources of the remaining gender gap

Goldin showed that female participation in the US labour market did not have an upward trend over this entire period, but instead forms a U-shaped curve

She showed that access to contraceptive pill played a part for career planning

## INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH (IMI) 5.0

Third Round:  
**Oct 09 - 14, 2023**

A big leap towards the elimination of Measles and Rubella

Ensure every missed dose of vaccine is taken.



Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Dinesh Gundu Rao, interacting with children and staff at a vaccination center.



Be Wise!  
Get your child fully immunized

Get your child registered on the U-WIN portal before vaccination. The registration will be done at the vaccination center.

Do not forget to carry your Aadhar Card and Mother-Child Protection Card (Thayi Card) for registration.

Collect your e-Certificate after the vaccination is done.

"Immunization is a gift of protection you can give your child."

Get your child vaccinated at your nearest Government Hospital / Primary Health Centre / Anganwadi / Health & Wellness Centre (HWC)

Since India has a huge diversity of cultures and traditions, Article 29 of the Constitution of India gives the right to every citizen to maintain their culture and its related practices.

Your Health. Our Responsibility.